

MCIWORLD.COM

1133 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

ORIGINAL

DAVID N. PORTER
Vice President – Government Affairs
(Tel) 202-736-6808
(Fax) 202-736-6615

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

August 10, 1999

Magalie R. Salas, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
12th Street Lobby, TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

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AUG 10 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: Ex Parte Presentation CC Docket No. 96-98

Dear Ms. Salas:

At a meeting on August 2, 1999¹, FCC staff asked MCI WorldCom to respond to concerns expressed by SBC that sub-loop unbundling is not feasible because of space, security and operational concerns. At that meeting, MCI WorldCom explained that it is not requesting unbundled access to segments of the copper portion of an ILEC-provided loop that is dedicated to an individual customer. Rather, it defines the entire dedicated copper loop as one loop sub-element that extends from but does not include the NID at the customer premises to and including a termination and cross-connection on the MDF in a central office or similar termination at a remote terminal. MCI WorldCom believes the NID should remain a separate loop sub-element and that the Commission should define two additional loop sub-elements – loop transmission and loop concentration/multiplexing. These terms and concepts are more fully described in previous MCI WorldCom filings.

Staff asked whether unbundling is, in fact, feasible at either end of a dedicated copper loop. We believe it is. Manufacturers are now introducing both multi-hosted digital loop carrier and multi-hosted DSL multiplexing that will simplify the unbundling by allowing LECs to share the common shelves of this equipment while at the same time they transport only the combined signals of their own customers.² In our opinion, this new technology increases the immediate need for the Commission to define loop transport and loop concentration/multiplexing as sub-loop elements now so that competitors can hasten the delivery of advanced services to all end-users – urban and rural.

Further, loop design is rapidly evolving to rely more heavily on carrier transmission systems located between the end user and the serving central office.³ LECs will use various types of multiplexing equipment located either at the customer premises if the carrier system extends to the customer location or at a remote terminal. In order to use the entire loop as efficiently as do incumbent LECs, MCI WorldCom must be able to specify both the multiplex and transmission capacity as ILECs do for themselves. While there may be ways to simplify ordering the necessary combinations of copper, loop multiplexing and loop transport

¹ An ex parte disclosing this meeting was timely filed on August 3, 1999.

² MCI WorldCom has developed two white papers which discuss the evolving DLC and DSL technologies. These are available via the Internet at <http://www.bullcreek.austin.tx.us/mci_worldcom.html>

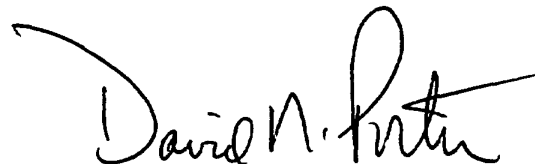
³ About 20% of all loops today are provisioned over digital loop carrier. This percentage varies significantly by ILEC. The percentage of loops served on DLC is expected to grow to 50% of all urban loops and 80% of all rural loops within the next five years. Id.

capabilities, MCI WorldCom requests the Commission declare these capabilities themselves to be network elements which new entrants may incorporate in the provision of any telecommunication service.

Staff asked how additional equipment could be installed in locations that SBC characterizes as already completely full and susceptible to inadvertent service interruptions. MCI WorldCom agrees that none of the existing loop plant was constructed anticipating competitive entry. We hope that it is as closely engineered as SBC implies. But, even if loop pedestals, enclosures and cabinets are full today, the ILECs have an affirmative obligation "to provide ... nondiscriminatory access to network elements on an unbundled basis at any technically feasible point".⁴ Some network changes may be required to satisfy this obligation, just as some were required when equal access was mandated. But, most of the examples SBC provides relate to enclosures at points within the dedicated copper portion of the loop. We request access at the customer premises, in the central office or at any point in between where the ILEC converts from dedicated to shared transport. Thus, many of the "horror" stories SBC predicts simply are unrelated to our request. Nonetheless, additional space may be required at some remote locations. In those cases, MCI WorldCom proposed, first, that ILECs likely would need to add space for their own purposes if space is as tight as SBC asserts and, second, that locating multiple cabinets at one site is common practice today.

Staff asked MCI WorldCom to demonstrate that multiple cabinets are co-located. Believing pictures to be worth more than many words, we took to the road. The attached pictures were taken in Bell Atlantic served areas of western Montgomery and Frederick counties, Maryland. Pictures 1 through 4 depict points in the loop at which we are not now seeking access – splice cases, drops, load coils, T-carrier regenerators or cross-connect cabinets without carrier systems. Pictures 5 through 8 are locations at which the ILEC appears to convert from dedicated to shared loop transport. MCI WorldCom asks the Commission to define locations such as these as connection points between loop sub-elements and to direct the ILECs to provide access to the functions performed at these locations. Picture 5 is a pole mounted subscriber line carrier installation with a power cabinet to the right; a carrier cabinet in the middle; and a cross-connect box to the left. The cabinets are connected by unprotected flexible conduit. Picture 6 shows the visible portion of a controlled environment vault with a cross-connect cabinet to the rear. Emergency power hook-up is in front. Pictures 7 and 8 show slab mounted loop carrier and cross-connect cabinets. Pictures 4 through 8 each demonstrate that multiple cabinets or structures can and often are located on the same pole or slab or in close proximity to one another. While MCI WorldCom does not know the size of the vault or the fill in any of these cabinets, the pictures provide clear evidence that multi-cabinet locations not only are technically feasible, but also are common industry practice today.

MCI WorldCom respectfully requests the Commission to define loop network sub-elements as MCI WorldCom has proposed.



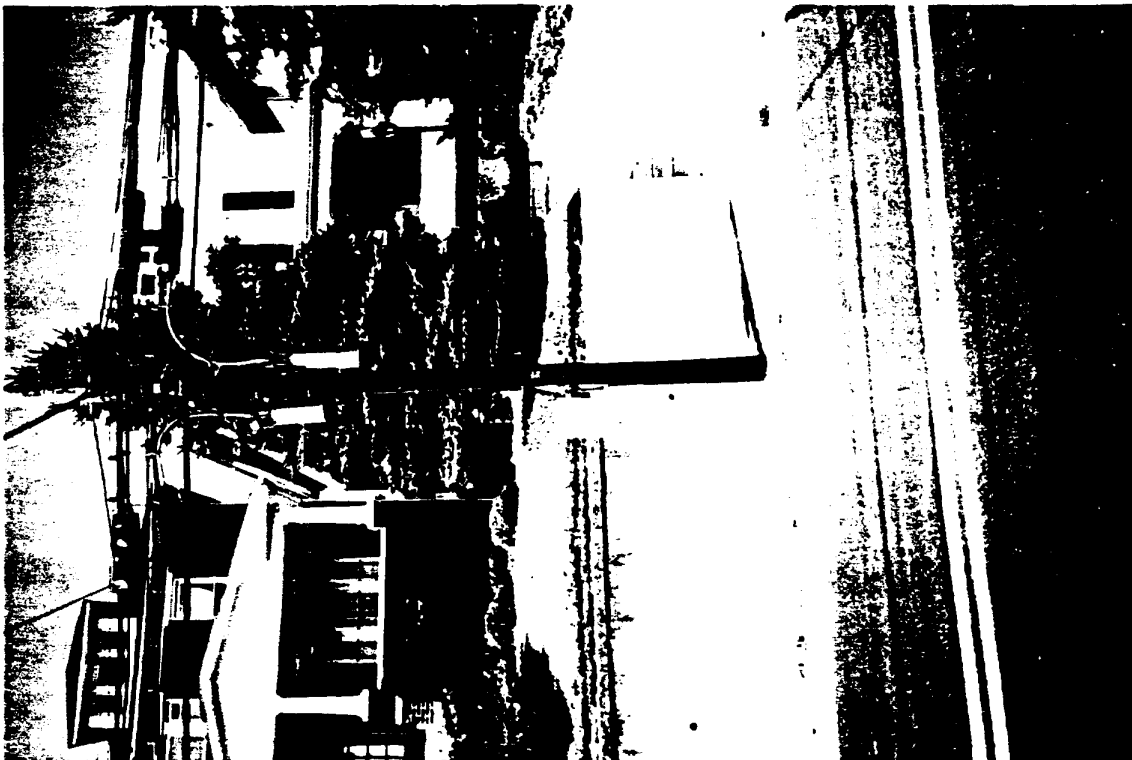
cc: Claudia Fox, Jake Jennings, Vincent Paladini, Jon Reel, Doug Sicker, Jerry Stanshine

⁴ 47 USC 251(c)(3)

Picture 1



Picture 2



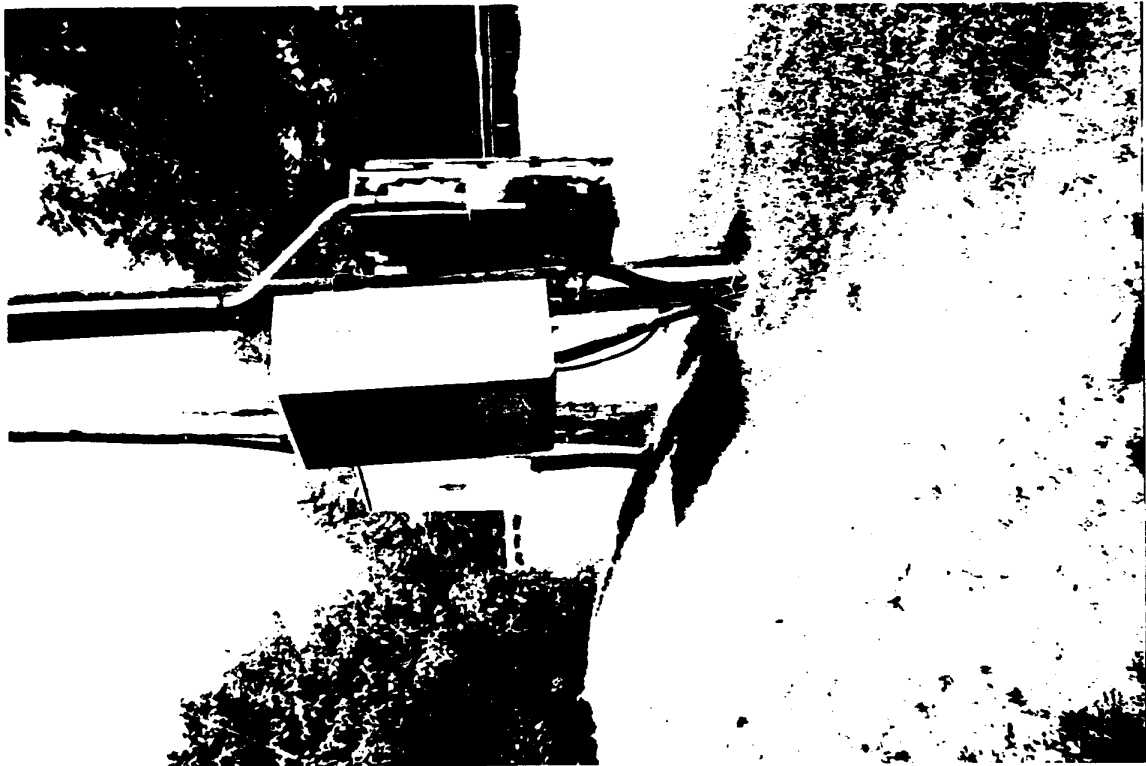
Picture 3



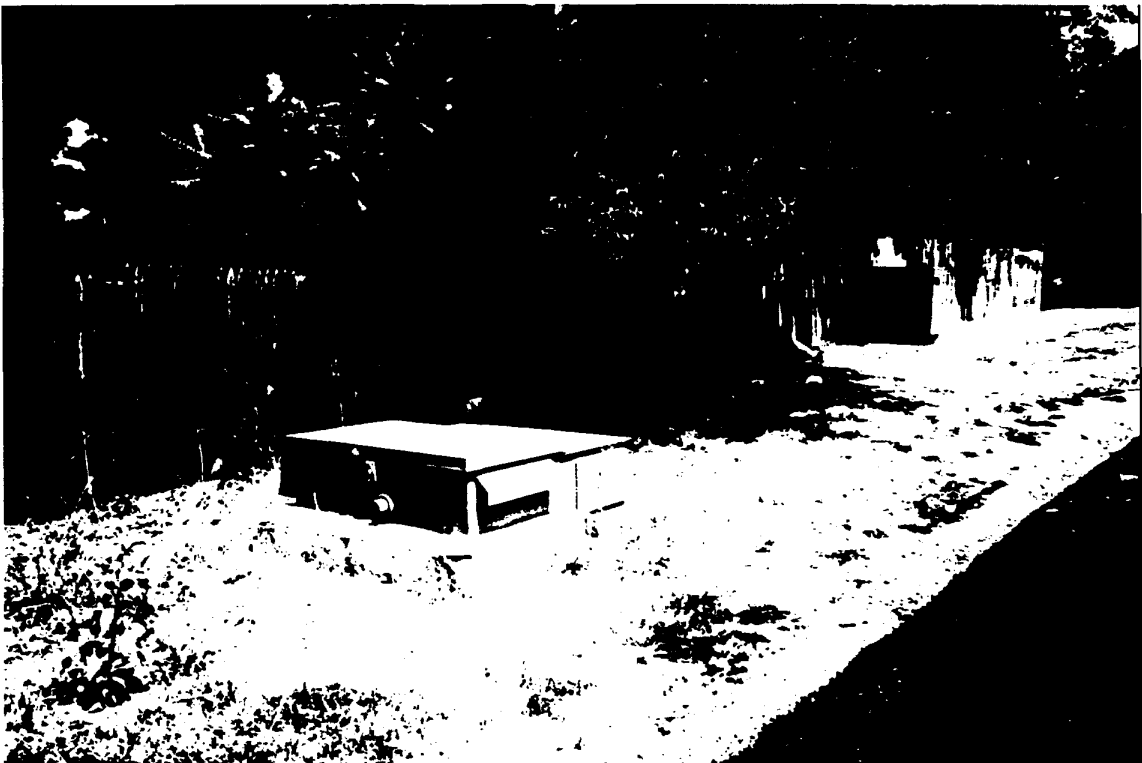
Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8

